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## Statement Regarding Noise Standards For Industrial Wind Turbines

VERMONT PUBLIC  
SERVICE BOARD

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To : Public Service Board

From : Carol Irons, Albany, VT.

Date : June 27, 2016

Re : Call for public comment / suggestions for  
more noise standards as per S.260.

There are a number of factors which directly affect both audible and inaudible noise/vibrations from the giant throbbing generators. The blades face the wind, so the nacelle emits more noise/vibration downwind from its location. Contours of a mountain block or funnel sound, at any given time more or less, depending on atmospheric conditions such as temperature, wind, and precipitation. Trees help muffle sounds, but since the industrial site is clearcut, they can only help at some distance, where the sound has dropped. The sound, after all, originates high above and then "megaphones" out across air and land. A big problem with vibration is IN the ground, which transmits those pulses a long way. These VT. mountains are millions of years old, and are still mountains because they are rocky. Vibrations reverberate

through rock, carried down slope to the homes 1-2 miles away. When a mile away from the Lowell Mts. turbines, I felt vibration in my ears. There are times when I become nauseous when on the side of the mountain, and other times I hear the turbines but do not feel ill.

It is clear that the present sound standards are too high. People ARE being affected ... getting sick! When the sound/vibrations are bad, they can go on for days and nights continuously. An hourly average can be manipulated too easily. The standards should be much lower, and should be absolute, not averaged. But whether a lower sound volume will actually reduce that pulsing vibration radiating out through the mountain's structure is questionable.

1. Testing continuously for both sound and vibration should first be conducted on existing projects to understand the problem.
2. Testing MUST be done by an independant company without financial ties to developers who should be required to contribute to a fund. This helps pay for expenses addressing the serious problems their projects are causing. But developers should NOT choose the company, nor handle funds or reports.
3. Testing needs to be done at ground level, head level, and higher (bird kill), and not just where ambient noise is higher (beside a metal shed, under a leafy tree, as GMP did).

Leaving the decible level where it currently is, failing to seriously address sound/vibration issues, will only continue to demonstrate industrial favoritism.